REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-18 have been subjected to the following restriction requirement:

Group I, claims 1-10 and 15-18, drawn to nucleic acids, methods for nucleic acid detection, vectors, host cells, methods for producing polypeptides, kits, methods of treatment using nucleic acids and nucleic acid vaccines;

Group II, claims 11, 12, and 16-18, drawn to polypeptides, kits, methods of treatment using polypeptides and polypeptide vaccines; and

Group III, claims 13-15, drawn to antibodies and protein binding assays.

The Examiner suggests that Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding technical features. Specifically, the Examiner suggests that the nucleic acids, vectors, host cells, nucleic acid kits, and nucleic acid vaccines of Group I are materially different from, and therefore do not share a common special technical feature with the polypeptides, polypeptide kits or polypeptide vaccines of Group II or the antibodies of Group III. The Examiner suggests that the methods of Group I are not needed to make the polypeptides of Group II or the antibodies of Group III and therefore do not share a common special technical feature with the polypeptides, polypeptide kits or polypeptide vaccines of Group II or the antibodies of Group III. The Examiner suggests that the methods of each of Groups I-III may be practiced independently of one another and therefore do not share a common special technical feature.

Further, with respect to claims 1-10 and 15-18, the Examiner suggests that the claims are drawn to nucleotides, nucleotide constructs and/or methods requiring the use of nucleotides or nucleotide constructs that contain more than one individual, independent and distinct nucleotide sequence. With respect to claims 11-18, the Examiner suggests that the claims are drawn to more than one unrelated, independent and distinct polypeptide.

Applicants respectfully traverse this Restriction Requirement.

A "special technical feature" is defined in PCT Rule 13.2 to be a technical feature that defines a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. Applicants believe that upon election of one of the ovarian specific nucleic acids, and the protein encoded thereby, of the present invention, Groups I-III share a technical feature that defines a contribution over the prior art.

Further, a search of a single ovarian specific nucleic acid, and the protein encoded thereby, should reveal art relating to all claims and therefore does not appear to place an additional burden on the Examiner. See MPEP 803.

Thus, reconsideration of this Restriction Requirement and prosecution of all pending claims with respect to an elected ovarian specific nucleic acid, and the protein encoded thereby, is respectfully requested.

In an earnest effort to be completely responsive, Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-10 and 15-18, for SEQ ID NO: 109 (DEX0455_053.nt.2, Ovr110v1) which encodes SEQ ID NOs: 269 and 270 (DEX0455_053.aa.2 and DEX0455_053.aa.3, respectively), with traverse.

Applicants believe this to be a complete response to the Restriction Requirement of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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